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Transcriber's Office  
FLOOR DEBATE

March 9, 2004

LB 868

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Raikes and Senator Chambers. Senator Redfield.

SENATOR REDFIELD: Thank you, Mr. President. I know the answer to that question. Bill Gates did finish high school. He did even attend college. He didn't finish college. But Melinda has two degrees, so that's good enough for the family, I think. Senator Chambers, I know you have concerns about the kindergarten age. And I am responsible for the handout that you were given, and I also noticed the errors. However, what I wanted you to see was the samples of the children's work. Because when you started school, I venture to say that there probably were not any seven-year-olds in your class. Because when I sent my oldest to school, he was five, he was a new five-year-old, and everyone in the classroom was five. Seven years later, when I sent his brother with a similar birthday to kindergarten, he was five, he was the only five-year-olds. The girls were six, and the boys were seven. Times have changed. And so in fact the teacher was coping with a whole spectrum of abilities. Now academically he was fine. But certainly he didn't have the height that his classmates had. And it came into play a little more for him socially, because in fact his classmates could join Boy Scouts earlier by two years, they could play football two years earlier, and they could drive a car two years earlier. So we see a range beyond even the spectrum of academics. But the handout that I gave to you is just to show you, in fact, that sometimes we are asking four-year-olds to hold a pencil, when they have not developed the manual dexterity that they need really to enjoy the task that they are being required to perform. Now there are four-year-olds who are capable. And that is why the assessment is in place in our current statutes, and that is why in the amendment the Education Committee left that language allowing children to be assessed and still attend school if they feel that they are ready. But I think that that's a different question than whether we force a child to attend who is not ready. So I don't know if I have put your mind to rest on that issue. But I think that in fact our teachers do struggle, and they do tell us that, that the range that is there in the kindergarten classroom is very, very difficult for them, because